

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A method for preparing a printing form, the method comprising:

coating a layer of a radiation sensitive ink on a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface layer to form an ink coating,

imaging the ink coating by [digital] laser means to form exposed areas and unexposed areas of the ink coating, and

acting on the support with aqueous covered dampening rollers in situ on a printing press to remove the unexposed areas of the ink coating thereby revealing the hydrophilic surface of the support and leaving an oleophilic image formed from the exposed areas of the ink coating, in which:

the [digital] laser means emits in the visible or infra-red region of the spectrum;

the ink comprises a radiation absorbing compound;

the radiation absorbing compound is a phthalocyanine pigment; and
the ink additionally comprises an infra-red absorbing dye.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 3 in which means are present in [the] an ink-train to coat a predetermined thickness of ink onto the hydrophilic surface.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 1 in which the [radiation] infrared- absorbing dye is selected from the group consisting of dyes of the squarylium, cyanine, merocyanine, indolizine, pyrylium, and metal dithiolene classes.

37. (Twice Amended) A method for preparing a printing form, the method comprising:

a) providing a polymerizable radiation-sensitive composition comprising a resin and an infrared-absorbing material;

b) applying a coating of the radiation-sensitive composition to a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface;

c) imagewise exposing the coating to infrared radiation using an infrared laser to produce exposed areas and unexposed areas of the coating; and

d) on a printing press in situ, acting on the coating to remove the unexposed areas of the coating, thereby revealing the hydrophilic surface of the support and leaving an oleophilic image formed from the exposed areas of the coating.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the infrared-absorbing material is an infrared-absorbing dye.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the infrared-absorbing material is an infrared-absorbing pigment.

59. (Twice Amended) A method for printing, comprising:

a) providing a polymerizable radiation-sensitive composition comprising a resin and a radiation-absorbing material;

b) applying a coating of the radiation-sensitive composition to a lithographic support having a hydrophilic surface at a thickness determined according to a desired run length;

c) imagewise exposing the coating to infrared radiation using an infrared laser to produce exposed areas and unexposed areas of the coating; and

d) on a printing press, acting on the coating to remove the unexposed areas of the coating, thereby revealing the hydrophilic surface of the support and leaving an oleophilic image formed from the exposed areas of the coating.

e) contacting the oleophilic image with a printing ink; and

f) imagewise transferring the printing ink from the oleophilic image to a printing substrate.